

REMARKS

In response to the Office Action dated December 15, 2003, Applicants respectfully request reconsideration based on the above claim amendments and the following remarks. Applicants respectfully submit that the claims as presented are in condition for allowance.

Claims 1-16, 20-33 and 37-55 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by Hanson.

Claim 1 has been amended to recite providing a first status notification to a sender in response to a request and providing a second status notification in response to a second disposition event occurring subsequent to said first disposition event. This feature is described paragraph [0050] and Figure 3 of Applicants specification. As additional message disposition events arise, additional status notifications are generated.

Hanson fails to teach this feature. In Hanson, a status report is generated such as that shown in Figure 9. Hanson does not disclose generating multiple status notifications as a multiple disposition events occur to a common message. Claims 2-17 variously depend from claim 1 and are patentable over Hanson for at least the reasons advanced with respect to claim 1. Claims 37-56 and 72-74 include features similar to those discussed above with reference to claim 1 and are patentable over Hanson for at least the reasons advanced with respect to claim 1.

In view of the foregoing remarks and amendments, Applicants submit that the above-identified application is now in condition for allowance. Early notification to this effect is respectfully requested.

If there are any charges with respect to this response or otherwise, please charge them to Deposit Account 06-1130 maintained by Applicants' attorneys.

Respectfully submitted,

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